

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 OMB-01 ARA-06

EUR-12 NEA-10 /098 W

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O 040913Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3698

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SEOUL 8532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, KS, KN

SUBJECT: FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER LHO SHIN YONG CALLED IN AMB NOVEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS BOTH IMMEDIATE AND LONGER-RUN PROSPECTS FOR KOREAN QUESTION IN THE UNGA AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY FURTHER REDUCING UN COMMAND PROFILE. LHO ALSO BLASTED AUSTRALIANS AND THANKED US LEADERS FOR SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. LHO OUTLINED HIS VIEW OF IMMEDIATE UN PROSPECTS IN VERY MUCH SAME TERMS USUN HAS BEEN DESCRIBING SITUATION IN RECENT MESSAGES. SWEDISH, ASEAN, AND TUNISIAN MOVE TO COMPROMISE HAD LITTLE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS IN LHO'S MIND, SINCE NORTH KOREANS NOT LIABLE AT THIS STAGE TO SHOW ANY FLEXIBILITY. LHO ANTICIPATED THAT SAME BATTLE WE HAVE JUST BEEN THROUGH LIKELY TO BE REPEATED IN UNGA PLENARY SESSION AND SAID INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO ALL KOREAN EMBASSIES TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. AMBASSADOR GENERALLY

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AGREED WITH THIS ANALYSIS, STATING THAT US EMBASSES HAD ALSO

BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN AND WHERE POSSIBLE IMPROVE FIRST COMMITTEE VOTING RESULTS. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF KOREAN MISSION AT UN AND KOREAN EMBASSIES ABROAD CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN CLOSEST COORDINATING WITH US COUNTERPARTS. LHO SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. WOULD EXERT INFLUENCE OVER KENYA, WHEREUPON AMBASSADOR OUTLINED PLANS DESCRIBED NAIROBI 9557.

3. TURNING TO LONGER-RUN PROSPECTS, LHO SAID THAT WIDE RANGING FRUSTRATION WITHIN ROKG OVER POOR UNGA RESULTS DESPITE MAJOR ROK/US EFFORT HAD PRODUCED UNIVERSAL VIEW THAT DIFFERENT APPROACH SHOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD UN NEXT YEAR. LHO MADE CLEAR THAT NO FINAL DECISION AS TO HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE HAD BEEN MADE, BUT SAID HE PLANNED TO OPEN DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO AVOID UNGA DEBATE ON KOREAN ITEM NEXT YEAR AT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 4.

4. IF UN COMMAND WERE NOT IN EXISTENCE, LHO WENT ON, OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR NORTH KOREA BRINGING KOREAN QUESTION TO UN ATTENTION WOULD DISAPPEAR AND NORTH KOREAN POSITION VIS-A-VIS THIRD WORLD NATIONS WOULD BE UNDERMINED. MOREOVER, HAVING FRIENDLY FORCES UNDER UN COMMAND COULD PUT US IN DIFFICULT SITUATION IF NORTH DID IN FACT ATTACK AND UN VOTED FOR FRIENDLY FORCES TO CEASE RESISTANCE. THERE WERE OBVIOUS DANGERS IN REMOVING UN COMMAND ALTOGETHER HOWEVER; THEREFORE LHO SAID HE PLANNED TO PROPOSE IN NOVEMBER 4 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK THAT SPECIFIC CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO REDUCING UN COMMAND TO FIVE OR TEN MAN SYMBOLIC UNIT, SEPARATE FROM OTHER US/ROK FORCES, HEADED BY 2 OR 3 STAR GENERAL, AND RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR CONDUCTING ARMISTICE DISCUSSIONS AT PANMUNJOM. AT SAME TIME ROK AND US COULD PROCEED WITH FORMATION COMBINED US/ROK COMMAND WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED.

5. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR DECLARED THAT WE TOO FOUND UNGA EXERCISE ON KOREA SIMILARLY FRUSTRATING AND THEREFORE ITS SENSIBLE THAT TWO PARTNERS SHOULD LOOK INTO ALTERNATIVE FUTURE APPROACHES TO UN PROBLEM. HE THOUGHT THAT CONCRETE SUGGESTION LHO HAD MADE WAS WORTH CONSIDERING. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED HOWEVER, THAT IT MOST IMPORTANT NOT TO MAKE DECISION TO OPT OUT OF UN DEBATE UNTIL WE HAD FULLY EXPLORED TOGETHER ALL FUTURE
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OPTIONS AND HAD AGREED UPON MOST VIABLE ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION. ONE PROBLEM AMBASSADOR NOTED WAS THAT REGARDLESS OUR EFFORTS TO AVOID FURTHER LENGTHY, FRUSTRATING UN CAMPAIGNS, COMMUNIST BLOC COULD RAISE ISSUE IN UNGA UNDER ALMOST ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. LHO FULLY AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR'S POINTS AND PROMISED THAT FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH BLUE HOUSE HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER KIM DONG JO PLANNED TO DISCUSS FUTURE APPROACH TO UNGA IN WASHINGTON AFTER

CONCLUSION OF UN CONSIDERATION.

6. TOWARD END CONVERSATION LHO REMARKED ON DEEP ROK DISAPPOINTMENT OVER AUSTRALIAN VOTE AND REPORTED THAT HE HAD PROTESTED STRONGLY DAY BEFORE TO AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR; LHO ADDED THHAT HE HAD TEMPERED SOMEWHAT FONMIN KIM'S INSTRUCTION FROM NEW YORK ON THIS POINT, WHICH, LHO SAID, "MIGHT HAVE CAUSED A BREAK IN RELATIONS". AMBASSADOR SAID US ALSO DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AND WAS PROTESTING TO AUSTRALIANS.

7. CONCLUDING CONVERSATION, LHO SAID HE WISHED ONCE AGAIN TO CONVEY THANKS TO PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR MAJOR EFFORTS ON KOREAN ITEM THIS YEAR. ROKG WAS FULLY AWARE THAT WE HAD DONE MORE THAN EVER BEFORE AND WAS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, LOBBYING, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL08532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750382-0368
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751176/aaaacqbm.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US, UN, (LHO SHIN YONG), (SNEIDER, RICHARD L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006